

NOTE

Platystoma seminationis (Fabricius) (Diptera: Platystomatidae)
Introduced to the United States

Platystoma seminationis (Fabricius), native to Europe, has been observed four times in the last three years in northern Illinois by the junior author and is apparently now established in the United States. It was photographed on three occasions (USA: Illinois: Chicago, North Park Village Nature Center, 18 Jun 2003, R. Curtis, slide #1112407; Chicago, Bunker Hill Forest Reserve, on grapevine, 2004, R. Curtis, #290911, 290919 (Fig. 1); and Glenview, Kennicott Grove, 15 Jul 2005, R. Curtis, #5010887) and one male (deposited in National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC) was collected at Illinois: Skokie, 8 Jun 2005, R. Curtis.

Six subspecies of *P. seminationis* have been recognized (see Soós 1984). The cap-

tured male keys to the typical subspecies in the key of Hennig (1945). *Platystoma seminationis* differs from most Platystomatidae known from the Americas in having mostly dark brown wings with small hyaline spots. It differs from species of *Amphicnephes* Loew, which have predominantly dark wings, in lacking a complete subapical hyaline band or a large posteroapical hyaline area and in the having the frons, most of the thorax, and dorsum of the abdomen densely grayish microtrichose, with numerous small, shiny black spots or irregular areas (*Amphicnephes* species are less densely and more evenly microtrichose).

According to Soós (1984), *P. seminationis* is widely distributed in northern, central and eastern Europe, occurring in most countries except Norway and Sweden and



Fig. 1. *Platystoma seminationis*, Chicago, Bunker Hill Forest Reserve, 2004. Male on left, pair in copula on right.

the Mediterranean region. It seems likely to become widespread in North America. The biology of *Platystoma* is poorly known, but most species, like the majority of Platystomatidae, are probably saprophages as larvae. *Platystoma seminationis* was reared from a fungus, *P. euphorbiinum* Enderlein from rotting roots, and *P. lugubre* Robineau-Desvoidy from humus soil beneath fallen wood and from a World War II cemetery (Ferrari 1987).

LITERATURE CITED

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- Allen L. Norrbom and Robert Curtis. (ALN) *Systematic Entomology Laboratory, PSI, Agriculture Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, % National Museum of Natural History, MRC-168, Washington, DC 20013-7012, U.S.A. (e-mail: anorrbom@sel.barc.usda.gov); (RC) 2131 W. Sunnyside Ave., Chicago, IL 60625-1609, U.S.A. (e-mail: robirdman@aol.com)*